

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1907.

SWEDEN'S NEW KING

GUSTAVUS V NOT POPULAR LIKE HIS FATHER.

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BY EX-ATTACHE.

King Gustavus' accession to the throne at Stockholm means the inauguration of a new political era for Sweden. True, he has repeatedly officiated as regent during Oscar's absence abroad, and likewise during his illnesses.

But the latter, while sufficiently severe to render him incapable of supporting the fatigues entailed by the onerous duties of a constitutional sovereign—duties which include the personal, consideration, and signature of hundreds of documents each day—were nevertheless of such a character as to enable him to remain keenly alive to what was going on around him, so that he remained really the controlling power, his son being compelled to administer the government in accordance with the parental views and wishes.

It is no secret to those who possess any acquaintance with conditions at Stockholm that Gustavus entertained ideas very different to those of the late King about a number of questions; that he entirely disapproved of his father's attitude in the controversy that culminated in the withdrawal by Norway from the union with Sweden, and that if he had had his way he would have endeavored to crush all Norwegian aspirations in the direction of independence long before they took the form of final separation.

In one word, the character of King Gustavus, instead of being pre-eminently patient, conciliatory, and ready to proceed to almost any length in order to avert a conflict, is extremely aggressive and unbending. Oscar's entire reign of nearly half a century was devoted to the avoidance of quarrels with foreign nations, and to futile endeavors to bring about a friendly understanding between his Swedish and Norwegian subjects, and the realization of his failure in the latter particular when Norway proclaimed her independence was a blow from which he never recovered, which embittered the closing years of his life, and aggravated the illness to which he finally succumbed.

Displaced with Norway.
King Gustavus has no such compunction about the necessity of maintaining an attitude of peace and good will toward all mankind. He is filled with resentment, not only against Norway, but likewise against those nations which he regards as having fostered and encouraged "rebellion" against Sweden, and is eager that his country should recover the importance, and should play once more the role in the concert of Europe which it filled in the reign of King Gustavus Adolf, whose name he bears.

Sweden's new king, therefore, commands a considerable amount of popular interest, and it is astonishing under the circumstances that so little space was devoted by the press to any portrayal of his personality and character at the time of his accession on Monday last.

In appearance and manner he is a striking contrast to his father. True, he lacks Oscar's breadth of shoulders and magnificent bearing; and, whereas the late king was one of the handsomest men in Europe, and every inch a monarch in his magnificent physique, Gustavus, with his sloping shoulders, his receding chin, only partly concealed by a sparse beard, his everlasting pine-needle perched on a nose that is not aquiline, but tip-tilted, is not precisely calculated to inspire enthusiasm.

Furthermore, while his father was most genial and democratic in his royalty, and possessed in a very marked degree that peculiar charm of manner which the French so graphically describe as "sympathique," King Gustavus is reserved in his demeanor, formal in his speech, and conveys the notion of haughty arrogance and proneness to irritation. It is said that these defects are in a measure atoned for by a lofty sense of honor and a particularly kind heart. But it is to be feared that the people at large do not take these redeeming qualities into account, and being inclined to form their judgment by what they see on the surface, fail to accord to Gustavus the same appreciation that was so freely given to his father.

Lacks Father's Intellect.
Another respect in which King Gustavus differs from his father is in the absence of all those graces of intellect and those accomplishments for which King Oscar was so distinguished. The late ruler of Sweden shown as a playboy, as a poet, as a novelist, and as an artist with both brush and chisel. His musical talents were altogether remarkable, even in a land of song such as Sweden, and most of the music now used in the churches throughout the kingdom is of his composition.

Oscar possessed a magnificent voice, and in time gone by was wont to entertain a small circle of intimate friends at musical evenings in the music-room of his palace at Stockholm, he himself, taking a leading part in the singing.

While Prince Eugene has inherited his father's artistic tastes, and has developed into a painter of international fame, many of whose pictures have been sold in the United States, King Gustavus has shown no special aptitude for literature, art, or science. His tastes incline rather to matters military and to statecraft, which naturally leads to the belief that spirited times are ahead for the little kingdom of Sweden.

In matters of foreign policy Gustavus V leans altogether in the direction of Germany, and has always cultivated a close intimacy with the Kaiser. It may safely be assumed that during his reign the relations between Sweden and Germany will become still closer than before, and that his response to Norway's action in securing a guarantee of her neutrality from Great Britain, France, and Russia, which is directed against Sweden, will take the form of the conclusion of an offensive and defensive alliance with Germany—no matter whether this alliance be made public or not. Gustavus makes no attempt to conceal his pronounced sympathies for Germany.

He has been one of the most active movers in establishing the new ferry service between the German coast and the southernmost point of his kingdom, and is a frequent visitor at Berlin, where indeed he has become persona grata. Under the circumstances it is fortunate that the Kaiser and King Edward have succeeded in the past few weeks, by means of personal negotiation and intercourse, in restoring to a great extent the friendly relations which formerly existed between their respective empires, and in removing the sources of friction which on more than

one occasion in recent years have brought the two countries perilously near to the brink of war.

Doesn't Like England.

Although King Gustavus permitted his eldest son some time before the separation of Norway and Sweden to marry an English princess, in the person of Princess Margaret, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, he is far from entertaining friendly feelings toward Great Britain or her ruler. Thus, sharing the popular view as to King Edward's mastery of the arts of diplomacy and statecraft, he is firmly convinced that the English ruler not only had engineered the elevation of his son-in-law, Prince Charles of Denmark, and his daughter Maud to the throne of Norway long before the dissolution of the union between the two countries, but that with this object in view he had been the principal factor in bringing the Norwegians to renounce their allegiance to King Oscar.

This impression prevails far and wide in Sweden, where it is added that Edward VII was actuated not alone by a desire for the aggrandizement of his family, but also by the wish to strengthen the position of Great Britain in the North Sea, which he had considered as being weakened by the close understanding known to exist between Sweden and Germany. It is not generally known that a couple of days before King Haakon left Copenhagen to assume the throne of Norway Gustavus, then Crown Prince of Sweden, suddenly appeared at Copenhagen, called upon Haakon, and had an extremely stormy interview with him, the two parting in anger, and Gustavus quitting the Danish capital without observing or receiving any of those courtesies that are prescribed by etiquette in the case of visits of sovereigns and of sons of reigning houses.

The unfriendliness of the Swedish royal family, and in particular of Gustavus, was shown by the manner in which they hastened to remove every vestige of furniture, even down to the very "batterie de cuisine," from the royal palace at Christiania, leaving to King Haakon and Queen Maud nothing but an absolutely dismantled building, with bare walls, on their arrival—a fact which was all the more resented when it is borne in mind that Haakon is, through his mother, a grandson of King Charles XV of Sweden.

Not Loved by Subjects.

That King Gustavus is beloved by his new subjects it is difficult to believe. At any rate, they have failed to show him any marked evidences of affection, and indeed manifested quite a contrary disposition in this respect last spring in connection with his application to the government and to Parliament for an increase of his civil list. It has been his misfortune to have been involved in controversies of one kind and another about money matters with the treasury and with the national legislature almost ever since he attained his majority, when he

GOOD WILL TO MAN.

Christmas greetings, mister! Don't you want to buy a tree?

You want all my greens! Gee, then I'll throw the tree in free.

We've walked five miles this mornin' from 'way beyond the hills.

I'm sittin' mighty hungry; so my dog, his name is Pills.

What's my name? Jest Tatters; and dad is Big Joe Malone.

There's me, an' Pills, an' daddy—we keep house all alone.

Our house is not so fur off, but an angel came one day.

Looked into mother's eyes, an' smiled—then took her far away.

Sometimes we get awful homesome—me, an' Pills, an' daddy.

We most can't swallow down the lump that makes us all so sad.

Then dad takes down his fiddle an' plays the sweetest tune.

An' me an' Pills list listen to hear mother's soft sweet croon.

No one else but mother and sing that little song.

But now, when dad plays the fiddle, the tune some-how sounds wrong.

Mother wail sing of the Christ child, born on Christmas Day.

How he was borned in a manger, all covered up with hay.

Jest a tiny, weeny baby, so helpless an' so dear.

An' the wise men on their camels, with gifts, an' gifts, an' gifts.

An' then mother 'ud stop singin', an' tell of the Star in the East.

How it came in the sky so brilliant, to guide both man an' beast.

An' then she'd tell of Christ risen, of God in His Heaven above.

An' say the only way that Heaven is won is by faith, an' hope, an' love.

Thank ye, mister, for buyin' all my greens! Come, Pills, we must go home to dad.

There's Christmas all aroun' us; we don't want daddy to be sad.

Me and Pills ain't cry-babies, mister; we are goin' to keep a fightin' front.

Heah, Pills! old fellow! show the gentleman your Christmas stunt.

Don't you think Pills is a nice dog, sir; hain't he got a cheerful face?

You let your bottom dollar Pills wins out in ev'ry race.

No matter what you do to him, he never gives you back a frown.

An' no matter what the trouble is, Pills is never up-side down.

Don't you like a little yaller dog, sir, as well as a I do? For though Pills is jest a mongrel, he's every inch a man.

Say, hefo' you go, mister, did you ever hear of a Licker Bill?

He lives not very far from us, on t'other side the hill.

Bill likes Licker, so they say, an' Licker likes old Bill.

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commenced to complain of the alleged inadequacy of his allowance from the state.

His demands on the national exchequer became more persistent than ever, when the Norwegians, deeply incensed by his public threats at Stockholm to bring them to subjection by force of arms, retaliated by declining to vote the quota of Norway to his civil list. Successive administrations and legislatures of every shade of politics in Sweden showed themselves indisposed to comply with his perpetual applications for money, and when last February he once more made a claim upon the administration and upon Parliament for a lump sum to defray liabilities incurred by reason of the insufficiency of his income from the treasury, he encountered not only a very unfriendly refusal by the cabinet and by the Diet, as well as a good deal of abuse on the part of the press, but likewise a suggestion, voiced in the legislature, that he should sell his large stables in order to raise the money necessary to settle his debts.

This perpetual wrangling by Gustavus about money matters has imbued the Swedish people with the conviction that he is of a grasping and money-grabbing character, a belief further strengthened by the knowledge that there have been some painful family differences arising from the fact that the now widowed Queen Sophia has unduly favored her second son, Prince Oscar Bernadotte, in a financial way. Queen Sophia is a enormously rich. Her great wealth is derived from the public gambling tables, which her father, the penultimate sovereign Duke of Nassau used to lease in his capital at Wiesbaden to the late M. Blanc, much in the same way that the Prince of Monaco now leases the Casino at Monte Carlo to old Blane's sons and sons-in-law, Prince Constantine Radziwill and Roland Bonaparte.

Extreme of Religion.

The now widowed Queen seems bent upon atoning for the tainted origin of her fortune, by religion carried to the extreme, and to her intervention is due a stringent law compelling the unwilling Swedes to an altogether Puritan observance of Sunday, which, previous to the accession to the throne of Oscar, had always been regarded as a holiday, destined for quiet pleasure, and more or less innocent dissipation. Her ideas are shared by her second son, Oscar, who is regarded as the chief beneficiary and heir of his mother's wealth, and who surrendered his royal prerogatives and his rights of succession to the throne in order to wed her maid of honor, Miss Ebba Munk, with whom he takes active part in the work of the Salvation Army, preaching publicly as an officer of that organization, not only in halls, but also in the streets.

Nor is the new Queen of Sweden calculated to strengthen the hold of her husband upon the affections of his people. For although she has a strong strain of Vasa blood in her veins, through her grandmother (the mother of the late Grand Duke of Baden, who was a daughter of Gustavus Adolphus IV, the penultimate Vasa ruler of Sweden), yet she has alienated all the good will which she would otherwise have enjoyed on account of that ancestry, by persisting in spending the greater part of her existence abroad. Entire years have passed without her ever setting foot in Sweden, and whenever she has put in an appearance in the land of her adoption, it has never been for more than a very few weeks at a time. The reason for her continued absence is alleged to have been the condition of her health.

She has claimed to be suffering from incipient consumption, and to be unable to withstand the rigors of the Scandinavian climate. But although the Swedish people were given to understand that she was an invalid, hovering on the brink of the grave, and doomed to an early death, she has managed to survive more than twenty-six years of marriage, and to bring into the world three sturdy sons, the eldest of whom, the Duke of Scanian, is himself a father, through his marriage to Princess Margaret of Connaught, while another, Prince William, who visited the United States last summer, and was extensively entertained at Newport, is about to be married to Grandduchess Marie Paulovitch of Russia.

Queen Almost a Stranger.

The new Queen's children have seen but little of their mother. In fact, they scarcely know her, and she is almost a complete stranger to the Swedish people. But she is a familiar figure at Rome, Naples, along the Riviera, in Egypt, and Algeria, where she shows no signs of weak health. Indeed, at Cairo she actually made the ascent of the Pyramids, which is a terrifying climb. In one word, she is more or less of a "malade imaginaire," and were it not the fact that through her grandmother, she represents the illustrious Swedish dynasty of Vasa, with which the most glorious portion of the history of Sweden is identified, her marked avoidance of the Swedish court and of the Swedish kingdom would have excited much more resentment among the countrymen of her husband, of her sons, and grandson, than has been the case.

Sweden's noblemen are very proud and reactionary, and the fact that the new Crown Prince of Sweden represents, through his mother, the old Vasa dynasty, has contributed more than anything else to reconcile them to the House of Bernadotte, the plebeian origin of which caused them to hold aloof, to a great extent, from the court of King Oscar and of his Bernadotte predecessors.

King Gustavus does not like to be reminded of his Bernadotte ancestry; but King Oscar was never ashamed thereof. He never forgot that his grandmother, Queen Desirée, wife of that Marshal Bernadotte who did as King Charles XIV of Sweden, was the daughter of a Marquis, stock broker of the name of Clarys, the Clary family has gone somewhat down in the world, as its representatives to-day consist of a retail grocer and a tailor, both of whom were invited by the late King Oscar to dine with him at his hotel when he was last at Marseilles, and were addressed by him as "cousins."

Jilted by Napoleon.

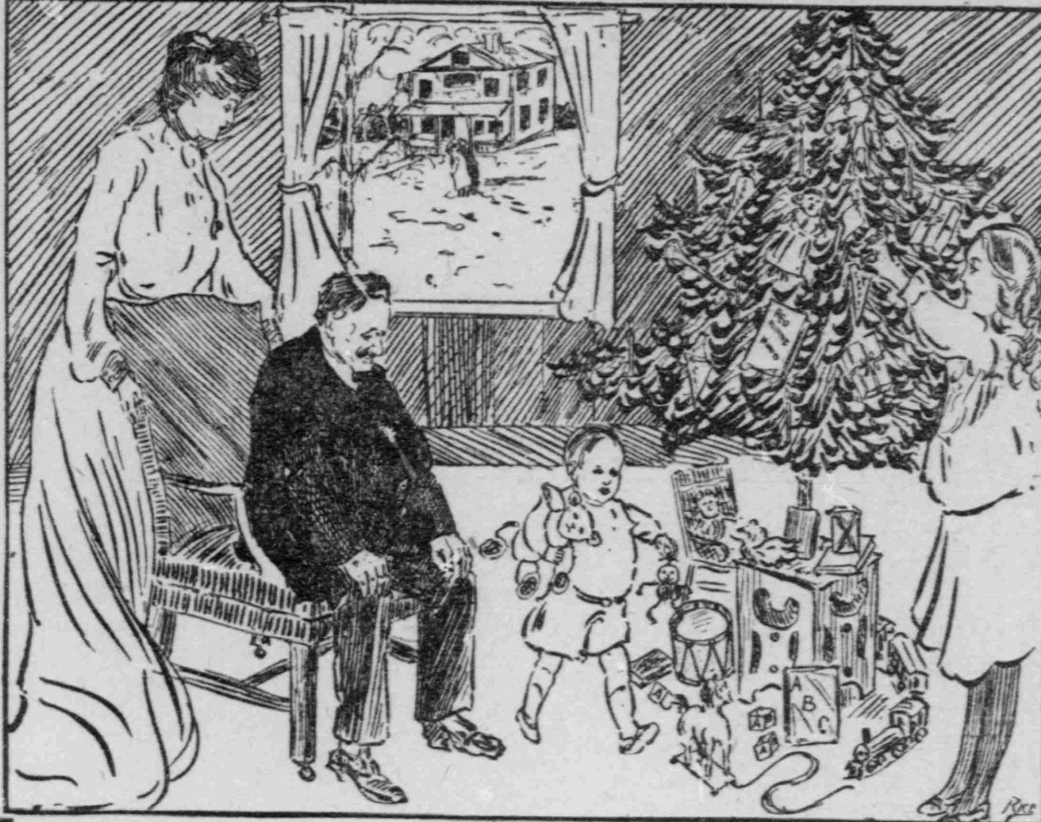
Old Queen Desirée, who had been jilted by Emperor Napoleon before becoming the wife of Bernadotte, was still alive in the early sixties—a dainty little woman, very frail in appearance, but with a most charming conversation, and magnificent eyes. Her married life is said to have been very unhappy, as her husband, besides being extremely fickle, was, after becoming king, always reproaching her with her plebeian birth, in spite of his own Pyrenean peasant origin, of the fact that he had been one of the soldiers on duty on the scaffold at Paris at the execution of King Louis XVI, and that on his left arm there was found, after his death, tattooed, a revolutionary cap, with the inscription "Death to all kings and tyrants."

Officers for Suffrage Women.

The District Woman's Suffrage Association met Thursday night last at the residence of Dr. Tindall, 1318 Euclid street. The coming lecture to be given by Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, of London, was the topic of conversation. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Helen R. Tindall, president; Mrs. Carrie E. Kent, vice president; Mrs. Mary L. Talbot, recording secretary; Mrs. Margaret C. Lohr, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anna E. Hendley, treasurer; and Mrs. Fannie S. Reynolds, auditor.

ALLIE SHARPE BALCH.
1235 Euclid street, December 11, 1907.

CHRISTMAS MORNING



CHRISTMAS MORNING! What joy it brings to the hearts of all! What good things are looked forward to at the dinner! The sizzling turkey, the delicious "side things," and the savory plum pudding! And what tokens of good will are given to every member of the family! How the children romp with delight around the tree, and how "You" and "Him" are pleased! Truly, Christmas—the great feast day—the great home day—is the greatest day in the year!

On Christmas there is "no place like home." The best part of the day is spent in the home. Now, take YOUR home. Are you going to have it attractively furnished for Christmas? Are there some odd pieces that need replacing? If there are, come to this cheery store and select what you want. Everything is here. Something for every room in the house.

Now, about gifts. You are probably perplexed as to what you shall give. Give something useful—something that will be an adornment for the home—YOUR home or somebody else's.

A "useful gift" is always received with delight. It not only brings momentary pleasure, but it gives LASTING pleasure and comfort.

Our stock of "useful gifts" this year is large and varied. Prices in every instance are extremely fair.

A Handsome Book of Christmas Stories for the Children Will Be Given to Every Customer Free Upon Request.

Here Are Some Especially Attractive "Useful Gifts."

Mahogany-finished Ladies' Desk	\$15.00	Weathered Oak Reception Chair, leather seat ..	\$7.25	Oak Morris Chair, without cushions	\$10.25
Weathered Oak Hall Seat	\$16.00	Weathered Oak Magazine Rack and Cellarette ..	\$11.75	Oak Morris Chair, upholstered	\$12.00
Golden Oak Hall Seat ..	\$12.00	Golden Oak Magazine Rack and Cellarette ..	\$7.35	Weathered Oak Armchair	\$11.25
Hall Mirror	\$17.50	Weathered Oak Cellarette	\$12.00	Oak Parlor Table	\$7.00
Vernis Martin Parlor Cabinet	\$18.50	Golden Oak Bookcase, leaded glass	\$19.50	Weathered Oak China Closet	\$14.25

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